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KINGTON URBAN DISTRICT

HEREFORDSHIRE

ANNUAL REPORT

on the

STATE of the PUBLIC HEALTH

for the Year

1948

The Orphans' Printing Press Ltd.,
Broad Street, Leominster.

Staff of the Public Health Department

Medical Officer of Health	H. F. GREEN, M.A., M.B., D.P.H. (Resigned on 31st May, 1948)
	M. J. PLEYDELL, M.C., M.D., D.P.H. (Appointed on 1st June, 1948)
Clerk	MISS S. DENSHAM
Sanitary Inspector (part-time) ...	R. P. MORRIS, A.R.S.I. (Tel: Kington 31)

Public Health Office: 4, Church Street, Leominster.

Telephone No.: Leominster 95.

To the Chairman and Members of the Kington Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1948, which has been compiled in accordance with the Ministry of Health Circular 3/49.

The housing position remains urgent. Although no Council houses were built during the year, sixteen houses were nearing completion at the end of the year, and will be ready for occupation early in 1949. In addition to this, the short term policy of housing thirty families at the Hergest Camp site, once these huts have been converted into quarters suitable for family units, should prove of great value in helping to remedy present needs and in planning for future requirements.

Investigation of the sewage disposal system for the town was carried out, and in view of the unsatisfactory nature of the effluent from the works, the necessary alterations to the system should be effected.

During the year there was a small outbreak of Whooping Cough in the town, but the seasonal incidence was favourable and no deaths resulted.

In conclusion, I would like to express my appreciation of the assistance and co-operation afforded me by Mr. Morris, your Sanitary Inspector.

M. J. PLEYDELL,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	857
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1948) according to the Rate Books	569
Rateable Value	£9,227
Sum represented by a Penny rate	£36

EXTRACT FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR:

POPULATION				1,968
		Total	Male	Female
LIVE BIRTHS (Legitimate)	... ...	37	20	17
(Illegitimate)	... ...	3	1	2
Total	... ...	40	21	19
STILL BIRTHS (Legitimate)	... ...	2	2	0
DEATHS		21	10	11

COMPARABLE DATA FOR ENGLAND AND WALES, 1948:

Birth rate (per 1,000 of the estimated resident population)	20.3
Birth rate for England and Wales	17.9
Death rate (per 1,000 of the estimated resident population)	10.7
Death rate for England and Wales	10.8
Still Birth rate (per 1,000 live and still births)	47.6
Still Birth rate for England and Wales	23.0
Infant Mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	—
Infant Mortality rate for England and Wales	34.0

SECTION B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

LABORATORY FACILITIES

Laboratory facilities continue to be available at the County Public Health Laboratory, Hereford, which is under the administration of the Medical Research Council.

CLINICS

There are no clinics provided by the Local Authority.

Under the County Council and Regional Hospital Board schemes the following Clinic facilities are available to residents in the district:—

Child Welfare Centre: In the Church Hall, Kington, on alternate Tuesdays at 2 p.m.

Venereal Diseases: At the County Council Hospital, Hereford, on Wednesdays and Fridays.

The schemes also provide for Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics, Paediatric, Ear, Nose and Throat, and Eye Clinics. During the year a Speech Therapist has been appointed to undertake treatment of those children suffering from speech defect. Children are referred to these Clinics as and when required, on the recommendation of the School Medical or Infant Welfare Authority, or at the request of the Medical Practitioner.

I am indebted to Mr. R. P. Morris, Sanitary Inspector to the Council, for the following statement (Sections C to E) furnished under Article 27 (Sub-section 18) of the Sanitary Officers (outside London) Regulations.

SECTION C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

The supply is obtained from the Crooked Well Spring and the quantity and quality has maintained its usual satisfactory standard. The Reservoir at the pumping station has had the lining of the walls and floor renewed; this work has not been completed owing to the difficulty of obtaining the necessary valves.

Number and results of bacteriological and chemical examinations of water :—

(a) Of raw water supply ...	2	(One was unsatisfactory)
(b) Of water going into supply after chlorination ...	8	All satisfactory
(c) Liability to plumbo-solvency	Nil	
(d) Action in respect of any contamination	At one time Fowls, Ducks and Pigs were kept at the Cottage near-by. The attention of the Council was drawn to this fact and orders were given for these to be removed. This was done and the water improved.	

(e) Number of dwelling houses and number of population supplied:—

(1) From water mains ...	Approximately 600 dwellings and a population of 2,000
(2) From standpipes ...	Nil

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The filter beds have had a thorough cleaning and the soil under the filter has also been dug over. The beds are now working much better. An old bed on the other side of Tramway has been brought into use after cleaning and digging up of the soil. This will assist the better filteration. For the large quantity of sewage, the other beds were inadequate to deal with the sewage in a satisfactory manner.

HOUSE DRAINS AND OTHER BUILDINGS

Number of

(a) Smoke, Colour and water tests	6
(b) New drains laid	80 yards
(c) Cleansed, trapped and ventilated	5
(d) Inspection chambers built	4

CLOSETS

Additional Closets provided	Nil
Renewals	10

FLOODING

The River Arrow has flooded a few dwellings in Bridge Street. This has been discussed with the Drainage Board.

REFUSE DISPOSAL

The same arrangements exist as last year other than the method of collection which is now carried out on three and a half days in the week.

RODENT CONTROL

A contract has been in force for three years with the War Agricultural Committee and the work has been satisfactory.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

INSPECTIONS UNDER THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	11	25	2	Nil
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authorities	—	—	—	—
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	25	37	2	—
TOTAL ...	36	62	4	—

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND:

Particulars		Number of cases in which defects were found: Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	2	1	—	1	Nil
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	1	1	—	1	Nil
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act, (not including offences relating to outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	3	2	—	2	—

DISINFECTION

Number of houses disinfected for:—

(a) Bed Bugs, etc. 6
(b) Infectious disease 3

SECTION D.—HOUSING

The Council have a schedule of 16 houses for 1948 but there are none of these yet ready for occupation. They have also a further schedule for 1949 of 10 houses.

Houses are badly needed to ease the position of overcrowding.

Categories of houses:	1	2	3	4	5	Total
(1) Number of privately owned premises, residential, working class, Flats or Rooms over shops	359	59	82	—	14	514
(2) Number of Council Houses	38					38
(3) Number of derelict or void houses not demolished					6	6

Category 1: Satisfactory.
,, 2: Minor defects.
,, 3: Requiring repair, structural alteration or improvement.
,, 4: Appropriate for re-conditioning under Housing (Rural Workers) Acts.
,, 5: Requiring demolition and replacement.

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR:

1.	(a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housings Acts)	18
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	54
(2)	(a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	4
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	15
(3)	(a) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	1
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	2

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers :—

(a) Work completed	14
(b) Work in progress	1

SECTION E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

BAKEHOUSES

There are six registered bakehouses and these are usually found in a clean condition, only limewashing being requested occasionally.

MEAT

All meat for the Butchers' distribution is examined at the Government Slaughter House, Leominster, and it is rarely that the Officer of the Council is called on to inspect.

FOOD CONDEMNED AS UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

77	tins	Milk
3	,, ...	Mixed Fruit
27	,, ...	Mixed Vegetables
36	,, ...	Fish Paste
326	lbs.	Fish
55	,, ...	Meat Pastes
683	,, ...	Butchers' Meat
11	,, ...	Bacon
1	tin	Dried Eggs

SECTION F.—PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

During the year there was only one case of scarlet fever, and two cases of measles. There was, however, a minor outbreak of whooping cough, thirty cases of this infection being recorded. This outbreak occurred during the Summer months—an important factor since there is less risk of pulmonary complications at this time of year—and affected chiefly pre-school children of the age-group 1—3 years.

One case of typhoid fever was notified in March. Routine investigations were carried out in an endeavour to trace the source of the infection, but without success. The patient was admitted to the Isolation Hospital at Credenhill and made an uneventful recovery.

ANALYSIS OF TOTAL NOTIFIED CASES, ACCORDING TO AGE

Disease	Age of Patient														
	0—1	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—6	6—7	7—10	10—15	15—20	20—30	30—40	Over 40	Unknown	Total
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Typhoid Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Whooping Cough	3	7	6	2	4	2	5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	30
Measles	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

As from July 5th, 1948, the duties relating to immunisation were transferred to the County Health Department, and the following figures are presented with the consent of the County Medical Officer.

Number of children at 31st December, 1948, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date (i.e. at any time since 1st January, 1934).

Age at 31. 12. 48	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	Total under 15	Estimated mid-year child population 1948		
									Under 5	5-14	Total
i.e. Born in year	1948	47	46	45	44	39-43	34-38				
	2	30	27	30	32	135	137	393	177	278	455

These figures indicate that 68.3% of the population of children under 5 years of age is immunised against diphtheria as compared with 64.8% at the end of 1947, while 97.8% of the children in the 5-14 year age group is immunised, this figure not being comparable with last year's result. Of the total child population under fifteen years, 86.4% is protected against diphtheria by immunisation.

TUBERCULOSIS

At the end of 1948, the Tuberculosis Register contained the names of ten males and ten females, who normally reside in the Council's district.

During the year, three new cases were notified on account of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, and one recovered. During the same period one death of a person suffering from the disease occurred.

CAUSES OF DEATH (all ages)

Disease	Males	Females	Total
Tuberculosis (of the respiratory system) ...	1	—	1
Cancer (all forms)	1	1	2
Intra-cranial Vascular lesions	2	4	6
Diseases of the Heart and Arteries ...	3	5	8
Nephritis	1	—	1
Violence	2	—	2
All other causes	—	1	1